



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/532,755

03/22/2000

Craig A. Finseth

PD-990193

8261

20991 7590 09/17/2007
THE DIRECTV GROUP, INC.
PATENT DOCKET ADMINISTRATION
CA / LA1 / A109
P O BOX 956
EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245-0956

EXAMINER

SHELEHEDA, JAMES R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/17/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/532,755	Applicant(s) FINSETH ET AL.	
	Examiner James Sheleheda	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14, 16-19, 26-43, 45, 46, 49-52 and 59-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 26-43, 45, 49-52 and 59-64 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 and 16-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/31/07 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 07/31/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments in regards to a user viewing profile, Zigmond, and not Knee, was relied upon to disclose comparing advertisement attribute information and program attribute information of a user viewing profile (column 11, lines 17-49 and column 17, lines 10-20). Zigmond fails to disclose wherein the comparison is utilized to create similarity scores for the advertisements. Knee was then relied upon to disclose the use of similarity scores for advertisements. Thus, the combination of Zigmond and Knee discloses the creation of similarity scores for advertisements based upon a comparison of advertisement attribute information and

Art Unit: 2623

program attribute information of a user viewing profile. Thus, applicant's arguments are not convincing.

Furthermore, it is noted that Knee discloses wherein the calculated similarity scores are *based upon* user viewing selections, as the scores are based upon demographic categories which are specifically *based upon* the user's viewing selections (paragraphs 35, 36 and 50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 11-14 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zigmond et al. (Zigmond) (6,698,020) (of record) in view of Knee et al. (Knee) (US 2002/0095676 A1) (of record).

As to claim 14, Zigmond discloses a method for broadcasting and displaying advertisements (column 4, lines 8-15), comprising:

receiving program guide data (column 10, line 64-column 11, line 13) and advertising data (column 12, lines 15-32), wherein the program guide data includes program attribute information identifying content of each of a plurality of television programs (column 10, line 64-column 11, line 13 and column 12, line 60-column 13, line 13) and wherein the advertising data includes a plurality of advertisements (column 12,

Art Unit: 2623

lines 15-32 and column 17, lines 10-20) and advertisement attribute information identifying content of each of the plurality of advertisements (advertisement parameters; column 12, lines 15-32 and column 11, lines 35-48);

maintaining a selection history comprising a user viewing profile that includes program attribute information identifying content of television programs selected by a user (stored viewing history; column 11, lines 13-30).

While Zigmond discloses performing, for each of the plurality of advertisements (column 17, lines 10-20), a comparison between the advertisement attribute information and the program attribute information of the user viewing profile (column 11, lines 17-49 and column 17, lines 10-20);

discarding advertisements having a value less than or equal to a predetermined threshold value (discarding ads determined to not match the viewer; column 15, lines 17-23 and column 17, lines 10-20); and

displaying a set of advertisements from the plurality of advertisements based on the value (displaying ads which are determined to match the viewer's program history; column 11, lines 31-65 and column 17, lines 21-32), he fails to specifically disclose calculating a similarity score for each of the advertisements, discarding advertisements having a similarity score less than or equal to the threshold and displaying the advertisements based upon the similarity scores.

In an analogous art, Knee discloses a method for selecting advertisements (paragraph 10; Fig. 5) which compares a users selection history (paragraph 35, 36 and 50) and advertisement attribute information (ad values; paragraphs 46, 47 and 50) to

Art Unit: 2623

calculate a similarity score for the advertisement (calculating a “closeness” score to identify which ads of a plurality most closely match the viewer; paragraph 47) and displaying the advertisements based upon the similarity score (displaying the “best match” ads; paragraph 47 and 50), wherein advertisements having a similarity score less than or equal to a threshold are discarded (wherein the advertiser determines minimum values which must be met to display the ad; paragraph 32), for the typical benefit of providing a systematic approach to targeting ads and identifying the best to display to the user, based upon user history and ad criteria (paragraphs 7, 47 and 50).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Zigmond’s system to include calculating a similarity score for each of the advertisements, discarding advertisements having a similarity score less than or equal to the threshold and displaying the advertisements based upon the similarity scores, as taught by Knee, for the typical benefit of providing a systematic approach to targeting ads and identifying the best to display to the user, based upon user history and ad criteria.

As to claim 16, Zigmond and Knee disclose storing the advertising data by determining if each of the plurality of advertisements received has a similarity score greater than an advertisement from the set of advertisements (only storing and utilizing the most best matching ads; see Zigmond at column 15, lines 17-23, column 17, lines 10-20 and Knee at paragraph 47).

As to claim 17, Zigmond and Knee disclose storing the advertising data in a memory if the memory has sufficient space to store each of the plurality of advertisement (see Zigmond at column 15, lines 17-23).

As to claim 18, Zigmond and Knee disclose storing the advertising data beyond a lifetime associated with the advertisement when the advertisement has a similarity score greater than a predetermined threshold similarity score (wherein a previously selected ad has been recorded and is now obsolete; see Zigmond at column 14, lines 1-13).

As to claim 19, Zigmond and Knee disclose wherein displaying the set of advertisements from the plurality of advertisements includes selecting advertisement images associated with each of the plurality of advertisements (see Zigmond at column 9, lines 9-20) based on the similarity scores for each of the plurality of advertisements (see Zigmond at column 17, lines 21-32 and Knee at paragraph 47) and displaying the selected advertisement images (see Zigmond at column 17, lines 21-32 and Knee at paragraph 47).

As to claim 11, Zigmond and Knee disclose wherein displaying the set of advertisements from the plurality of advertisements based on the similarity score includes repeating the display of the advertisement from the set of advertisement at a

Art Unit: 2623

frequency (see Zigmond at column 13, lines 40-47) based on the similarity score of the advertisement (determining if the ad is displayed; see Knee at paragraph 47).

As to claim 12, Zigmond and Knee disclose wherein displaying the set of advertisements from the plurality of advertisements based on the similarity score includes prioritizing the advertisements within the set of advertisements for display based on the similarity scores of the advertisements within the set of advertisements (wherein the order of display for the ads is based upon a "best match" calculation for each ad; see Knee at paragraph 47) and displaying the advertisements within the set of advertisements in order of priority (wherein the highest priority or "best match" for each successive ad slot is selected and displayed; see Zigmond at column 21-49 and Knee at paragraph 47).

As to claim 13, Zigmond and Knee disclose wherein displaying the set of advertisements from the plurality of advertisements based on the similarity score includes displaying advertisements having a similarity score greater than a predetermined threshold score (wherein advertisements which do not exceed the threshold are discard and never displayed; see Zigmond at column 17, lines 10-20 and Knee at paragraph 32).

Conclusion

5. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with

Art Unit: 2623

all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on _____
(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Signature: _____

Registration Number: _____

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. () _____ - _____ on _____
(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Signature: _____

Registration Number: _____

Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.

Art Unit: 2623

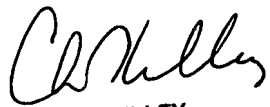
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Sheleheda whose telephone number is (571) 272-7357. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

James Sheleheda
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2623

JS


CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600